

Colonial Society: British or American - Material Culture and Imperial Wars

Bailey, Chapter 6

Supplement: The Quest for Gentility in Prerevolutionary America

In what ways do the colonists see themselves as British, during the first half of the eighteenth century? How do the Imperial Wars lead to the creation of an American identity?

Identifications:

material culture, Georgian architecture, Chippendale furniture, gentility

imperial wars, King William's War (War of the League of Augsburg), Queen Anne's War (War of the Spanish Succession), King George's War (War of the Austrian Succession), Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, Louisbourg, Albany Plan, William Pitt, Seven Years' War (French and Indian War)

Homework Questions:

1. In what ways, both material and social, did Americans try to emulate British culture?
2. Why did upper-class Colonial Americans see the need to create/maintain visible class distinctions? How did the upper class attempt to maintain class distinctions?
3. What were the causes of the imperial wars of the late 17th and early 18th centuries?
4. Why did the colonists develop their own names for these conflicts? What might this indicate about their attitude towards these wars?
5. How might American colonists have viewed the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle? In their minds, what was its significance?
6. What was the Albany plan? What does its failure indicate about intercolonial attitudes and British attitudes towards the colonies?
7. How were British attitudes towards America in the Seven Years' War different from their attitudes towards America in the previous wars?
8. What were the provisions of the Peace of Paris?
9. How did the Seven Years' War impact the way Americans viewed their relationship with Britain? How did it impact the way the colonies viewed each other? How did the Seven Years' War impact the way the British viewed the American colonies?